

January 4, 2021

Select person Maura Curran shared the sad news that former Town Clerk Bernice Brown passed away in December. Bernice served as town clerk from 2003 to 2012. Ms. Curran described her as lovely woman, who was always kind and helpful, and very dedicated to the town. Ms. Curran offered condolences to Bernice's family on behalf of the Select Board and town employees.

Town Administrator Jim Boudreau said since last Monday Scituate has seen 119 new COVID cases up from 46 the previous week. He said the numbers are skyrocketing, which is very worrisome to the town and the schools. Scituate now has a 5 percent positive rating, up from 3.32 percent that puts it fully in the red on the state COVID map.

Mr. Boudreau said he had a call today (Jan. 4) with towns that are newly designated as "red" to discuss ways to drive down those numbers. He will also be meeting with the town's COVID response team about imposing additional restrictions. Those could include having Town Hall open by appointment only and the library would return to pick-ups and drop-offs only. Mr. Boudreau said

he would let the public know either later today or tomorrow (Jan. 4) what restrictions will take effect.

He said the worst part is that we are not at the height of the COVID holiday surge that could come in the next week to 10 days. For COVID guidelines visit:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-updates-and-information>

Mr. Boudreau reminded citizens that the out-of-state travel ban includes the other New England states. Those returning to Massachusetts face restrictions including having to quarantine for 14 days unless they have a negative COVID test up to 72 hours prior to their return. Details are on the state website and the Scituate Public Schools website: [Scituate.k12.ma.us](https://www.scituate.k12.ma.us)

Scituate expects its public safety employees to be vaccinated next week, followed by the DPW, Water and Sewer departments, and teachers, Boudreau said.

Boudreau noted that many residents have heeded the advisory not to flush wipes down the toilet because they clog the pumps at the sewer treatment plant. He said even if the wipes say “flushable” they should not be flushed as they don’t dissolve. There is a video on the town website that illustrates the issue:

<https://www.scituatema.gov/sewer-division/pages/flushable-wipes-are-not-flushable>

The Cole Parkway marina project begins in earnest next week when the contractor will be on site installing the equipment. The marina will be on pilings rather than floats. The project is expected to be complete by the start of the boating season.

Bids for the clubhouse at Widows Walk are expected soon and hopefully will come in within budget.

Boudreau and Curran both asked residents, who walk the golf course, to stay on the walkways, clean up after their dogs, and stay off the greens.

The Board of Selectmen meets Tuesday (Jan. 5) and has a full agenda including discussion on the wind turbine. Check the town website for the agenda and Zoom link to join the meeting.

The School Committee meets Jan. 11.

Next week digging the main excavation trenches at Cedar Point will start and will cause significant disruptions. Once the large excavation starts, it will be very, very difficult to traverse Cedar Point. Please avoid the area if

you can or follow the signage and directions of the police officers on duty.

Today (Jan. 4) is the third anniversary of Boudreau's service as Town Administrator. Curran praised his leadership and was grateful to have him on board.